Stupid is as stupid does; same for 'free' VA benefits. ~OR~ Ditto.

Free VA benefits? There is no disgrace in ignorance; however, remaining ignorant is disgracefully known as 'stupidity.' Einstein quoted, 'the universe has limits; not so for human stupidity.' Rumor has it that Albert wrote that after touring the North Texas VA. Raka, the sheer magnitude of public ignorance bordering on stupidity!! At military discharge and off-boarding over 40 years ago, our group attended an out briefing about VA benefits led by one of *our* squadron officers, Captain Pybus. VA was not there to self-represent. I never forgot it; <u>he</u> gave us handouts of greasy, smeared, mimeographed copies of VA materials then standing next to a flip-chart began the meeting with this forewarning: 'I am here to brief the group about benefits you earned that VA claims to offer which none of you will ever receive...' How prophetic was he. I stayed in contact with some of our group and all of us dropped out of the VA benefit chase for job and civilian re-transitioning aid, GI Bill, housing loans, medical, and C&P within weeks or months after discharge depending on each person's tolerance for undergoing the institution's racism, bigotry, humiliation and scandalous treatment of us in seeking 'our earned benefits.' I swore then that I would die before ever setting foot in another VA shit-hole. People of that institution treated us worse than biting insects. Some of the guys with serious untreated problems cracked up and/or suicided same as they do today. Nobody in the US cared; we were dishonored blame goats for losing an unwinnable Vietnam War waged by US Socialists: it was their war in toto! In some parts of the country, if one were discovered active or ex-Military, he could get beat up, crippled or murdered. And many men suffered such intolerance. Nothing new there, when on active duty for our safety we were forbidden to wear military uniform off base or visit certain local businesses because of confirmed hostilities against military personnel. Businesses cheated us, employers discriminated against hiring Vets with excuses such as, - 'we cannot use Veteran skills' aka we do not hire damaged people. <u>Or</u> my favorite, "you are over qualified..." State unemployment employees refused to help and berated us. When I applied for unemployment and began a new job search, while still on active duty weeks away from discharge, *an adult female* Texas State Employment Commission employee caustically said, 'you will never get a job...return to Military because that is all you are fit for...' In hindsight, I believe the whole system was rigged to drive us back into the military, especially

then. Recruiters called for over a year after discharge 'hounding' my return. After Vietnam War ended, US Armed Forces had a massive experience and brain drain when enlistments were unfrozen. That placed a heavier burden on those of us who remained to perform tasks of 5 people. Manpower shortages were critically acute because the all-volunteer Military could not replace personnel losses. Serious accidents involving nuclear weapons and more escalated because the old 'brown shoe' kick men in the ass and work them like machines mentality of top brass did not change with the times even in a post war time environment. SAC had the worst divorce rate of all the uniformed services. Morale was at its lowest – especially after Neo-Socialist Jimmy Carter's announcement January 21, 1977, which drove even more of us out of uniform including me. AWOL and desertions were epidemic. Nobody cared. Why 'sucker' to an ungrateful, despicable country. The movie *Rambo*, which was mostly Hollywood lies, did have a core truth about how America mistreated Military personnel and Veterans. When active, one never wore his uniform off base and hid it in the closet with other oppressed minorities. I kept my Veteran status secret; should anyone suspect and inquire about it, I simply changed the subject or silently walked away. The disgrace was that great and nobody cared about ugly, hated American soldiers or Vets. As a passersby, I overheard someone in a group of young people at a local Jr. college sitting in a student body lounge snigger that 'the only good soldier [GI or Vet] was a dead one...' the whole group agreeably laughed. Veteran suicides were pandemic then too, but nobody cared. The shameful, ugly Veteran remains with me for life; it was not until renewing my driver's license at age 65 that I overcame it enough to have 'Veteran' added as part of healing carried dishonor. Too many of my fellow **Vets could only heal by suicide.** I nearly did so many times; nearly, and still have the spent pistol shell casing from a failed attempt. When pulling the pistol trigger, it only went click with the muzzle buried deep in my mouth aimed at the brain stem; I did not have strength to pull the trigger a second time then; however, the same loaded gun and cartridge fired flawlessly in a bar ditch outside city limits a few days later when pulling the trigger a second time. Every day I struggle with suicide. VA's answer, call 911 or the crisis 'helpless' line or go to a private free clinic but do not bother us: thank you for your service...and our profits, free lunch and free ride. THAT IS SOCIALIZED HEALTHCARE! To see it in action, visit any VA clinic and say I am suicidal; staff scatters like cock roaches running for cover under their rocks and all point in general direction of MHC, ER or maybe towards the exit; it is hard to tell. I should be dead but something confines me here for a purpose. I continually hear that ex-military get free healthcare and other benefits; the most expensive free I never got! I do not qualify for much by refusing to sell my soul in the disability game with VSO, C&P and VA kangaroo court judicial tribunals spending decades fighting a corrupt system for a monthly benefit check and 100% rating. Another Vet told me if I do not fight them they win; nope, they lose and so do you. This same man is gagged and terrified with

every rumored or real policy change out of Washington, DC or VA threatening his benefits. Decades ago to win his claim, he hired a law firm when they accepted consignment VA cases. It required well over a decade to do, and he had to reapply and fight for benefits reinstatement after some button pushing back office dweeb denied them again. When Washington cuts budget, Veterans take the zero not Socialist bureaucracy. Now he is too sick and old to fight and terrified of again losing his stipends. Many more are enslaved same as he. So who won? Moreover, currently lawyers refuse to take VA disability cases at all citing it has a unique, closed judicial system [very criminal, corrupt & political] that locks them out and is not worth pursuing. It must be well beyond dishonest when US legal industry refuses, for the most part, to represent people in that adjudicator process. Moreover, law firms do not have 10-15 years to settle a case; most Vets my age and health condition do not have that much precious energy, life or time to wait anyway. VA knows that and simply waits us out until death do we part. That whole process is just one more example of US government contradiction killing time until that kills the people it betrayed. Civil tort lawyers are capitalizing on VA's Achilles heel of wrongful death lawsuits for Veteran Suicide epidemic highlighting the facts that VA is not and never has done enough to stop it. Sweet justice from beyond the grave for the men and women who sacrificed to raise awareness and help survivors get the care we need. Again, too little & too late for them but it is a start in the correct direction.

CHAPTER 27

We Suffer and Die Alone.

Suicide is not cowardly; <u>COWARDLY</u> is a disgraceful, Socialist, American nation, its people and Nazi institutions like VA that abuse, mistreat, and betray veterans so badly that s/he chooses to escape the pain by ending their life. 100 US veterans successfully suicide every day protesting their maltreatment by VA and USA Socialist society written in veteran blood. Only America and VA can sink so low in sewer filth profiteering from veteran suffering and suicide.

A few years ago, a friend, neighbor, and Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran named Bill died from dioxin exposure aka Agent Orange and other War related chronic illnesses, skin diseases, and cancers. Same stuff that is killing me. It was horrible. On his deathbed, he bitterly uttered disgust at America, 'Nobody wanted to hear the truth...about [the] Vietnam [War].' He fought that conflict in his soul every day and night. His wife, **Military and Veteran spouses are the true**

heroes and strongest people alive, stayed with him until the end. She was the unsung champion who cared for him not America or VA. Only now, years later, does she talk about the dark times they faced together caused by that damned confrontation and from the lack of care he got from VA and this country. Passing released him from his suffering and shame. Bill was drafted into three consecutive tours [3 time loser] in Vietnam and for what? To suffer and die horribly?! I know/knew too many like him; some of the sons and daughters now follow in their father's and mother's footsteps burdened with duty of the Middle East Wars. Are they healing tormented ancestral ghosts haunting their souls? I have known too many Veterans like Bill who, after a lifetime of misery, languished, suffered, and died rotting away alone at home or in an institution during their final years, months, days, and moments. Constant pain turns seconds into years, I can tell you that much. I would not wish this on an enemy if I had any not even VA...but it is tempting – If I could curse them with it – tempting. We are isolated and forgotten, in our pain and misery out of sight, mind, and concern of the shit-brained Americans we served. This is a nation of patriotic parasites that frottage their jingoistic, narcissistic egos thinking how wonderful are they that Military and Veteran martyrdom sacrifices for them just to make their lives better. Sacrifices exchanged for trite slogans of 'thank you for your service,' and worse – hypocritical, phony gratitude that to most of us is gut wrenching acrimony from 'we the cowardly sheeple' who want others to martyr for them so they can enjoy largess of a peaceful free lunch on a leisurely free ride. Enjoy it; you never know what you got until it is gone...

Suicide is not cowardly – it kills the pain forever. Do you know what is cowardly? A nation, its institutions and people that abuse and torture one so badly she or he chooses to take their life to end the suffering. Only cowardly America and VA could sink so low in sewer filth profiteering from veteran suffering and suicides.

The Gentler, Kinder VA ~OR! Not a chance in hell!

'Choose VA for the benefits that you deserve,' claims the latest full size billboard advertising slogans posted all over the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex augmented by the same message on Sunday morning TV ads, aired during the cheapest time slots. I cringe at the sight of one. The underlying intent is to lure more Veterans, insured and otherwise, into supporting that system in exchange for broken promises. Remember, VA is a government run HMO that gets paid 'capitation' for each active Vet on their rolls; more numbers mean more money for doing nothing! The worst, Socialist healthcare system in America cannot provide adequate or even marginal care to existing customers, which is less than 8% of total US veteran population, contrary to claims otherwise while chasing after new ones! There is an old saying, "never neglect existing friends [or customers or patients] when pursuing new ones; that is a recipe for losing them all. VA seeks to stem losses of Veteran numbers with schizophrenic 'Magic Think.' That is how their PR-propaganda departments work: if they dream & publish it, poof – magically, everything is now that...much like 'Washington, DC Think.' Except in real life, fantasy does not work apart from children's nursery stories or Hollywood castles in the sky fantasy Productions. Over 92% of all US military veterans - the Smart Veterans - are voting with their feet either by never setting foot in a VA facility; except as I did in desperation and under extreme duress on the way to a morgue, to keep disability status active or after learning their lesson and departing in toto for better care elsewhere – as I have, again.. Whether in part or completely does not matter – increasingly Vets are abandoning VA while the agency seeks to attract and keep more paying customers same as private sector without delivering quality or value for the money. Their outdated propagandic boasts of equal care to private firms come from the early 1990's plagiarized from Clinton/Kizer era.** I contest VA claims that it delivers quality care. Overall, I do not get my money's worth, which is the face of US Socialism: pay us special snowflakes simply to exist. The agency seeks to compete for lucrative business in free markets while holding to an archaic monopolistic-government attitude: all we want is perks & money. Take it or leave it because we do not care, which is easy to do at taxpayer expense and captive clientele of ill Veterans with no place else to go. Consequently, the noncompetitive bureau languishes and fails in a competitive environment.

Epitome of that powerlessness is latest appeal to US nation for the people to help stem the VA caused Vet suicide epidemic. That 'crybaby, it is not our fault' appeal clearly exposes the agencies impotence to truly help us with our problems as it is chartered to do, and as it has historically and now seeks to do by dumping its tasks, onus, and responsibilities onto someone else while keeping their 400 billion dollar annual taxpayer support budgets paying them simply to exist: pay us special buttercups for breathing.

** footnote on VA, Hillary Clinton and Kenneth Kizer

'A lie is a lie even when everyone believes it; truth remains truth even when nobody believes it.

Adolf Hitler.

**A pervasive and widely held lie is that veterans get "free' healthcare and benefits on par or better than the private sector medical is now a commonly believed, persistent, propagandized lie. Here are the historical facts – you figure out the rest. During the Clinton Administration, first lady, Hillary Clinton's plan was to sell America on Socialized Healthcare. She needed a working, sterling Socialized example so chose the VA as her model. Armed with a presidential decree she gave VA an ultimatum: reform into that sterling model or else. Hillary needs no introduction: she has sharp teeth and a very nasty bite. In 1994, Clinton put Kenneth Kizer in charge of the VA healthcare system, as Undersecretary of Veterans Affairs. The new sheriff over that agency had large teeth and nasty bite, too. Kizer among his many accomplishments, reformed VA; he modernized the VA's computer systems, fired poor-performing doctors, support staff, and established private-sector-style metrics to measure the VA's performance on things like patient wait times, care quality, service, etc. In other words, during his fiveyear tenure Kizer reformed VA into a top-performing healthcare and benefits institution notwithstanding entrenched, status quo 'good old boy and girl' interests dead set against him derailing their gravy trains. He & Hillary created a long overdue mammoth train wreck from them to provide quality Veteran healthcare providing veterans the benefits they earned deserved for the very first time in VA history. They turned VA healthcare and benefits into a crown jewel of what healthcare can be and a highly envied example by the US medical care industry. They did it without more legislation, laws or increasing VA budgets from Washington DC. Hillary is a lot of things but she and Kizer did what Ship of Fools US Congress and all their cronies could not and still cannot do: true VA reform making that a first in the history of Dept of Veterans Affairs and that agency cannot take one whit of credit for that historical accomplishment! However, all good things end. After Clinton left office and Kizer resigned from VA 5 years later so did their success story. Recidivism quickly reclaimed the institution to its

former cesspool disaster run by status quo 'good old boy and girl' special interests: VA, VSO's, Congressional political pork, AFGE union, misc crony's, internal corruption, etc. They restarted their gravy trains robbing taxpayers and veterans to pay for their free ride and lunch. All the while, plagiarizing & stealing credit, hiding behind claimed and published accounts that it never did from accomplishments during the Clinton & Kizer era VA golden age. VA is now considered the worst healthcare system in America yet perpetuates commonly believed lies to the contrary. Ref credit: Avik Roy, Forbes Staff writer.

CHAPTER 29

AFGE, unionized civil service workers do not give a damn about veterans.

Do not touch my job. Represented workers are enigmatic. Rank and file civil service employees are nearly impossible to remove or fire. Such job security gives them no incentive to perform, far too many do not except as dead wood, which drags down the rest, lowers overall efficiency, and morale, increases costs and worse. Socialistic Unions do more to preserve and defend the horrible warning employee than anything else except self–preservation. Heaven help anyone who does the job for them. In my 35-year experience with unionized employees, I found that many rank-and-file represented employees would expend more resources objecting to others performing their neglected work or avoiding it entirely than what it takes to just do a job outright. For example, a VA clinic primary care doctor frustrated with urology clinic at VA Dallas Regional ignoring a UTI in one of her patients. After repeated contacts urging treatment that Uro clinic ignored, of her volition she prescribed the medicines in which to do so. Voof!! When Uro staff discovered that she invaded their turf, all hell broke loose!! Never mind the patient, who suffered for months with a raging, untreated UTI. She guit for another job with better working conditions. I hated to see her leave. Nephrology clinic at regional, playing politics with patient lives, refused to assist a primary care provider located in a satellite clinic seeking advice treating severe anxiety and hypertension in a kidney disease patient. That is not your job; make an appointment and send the patient to us at VA Dallas Regional hospital. Out of desperation, she instead referred the sufferer for immediate care at VA Regional ER 60 miles away. That MD unexpectedly left, too. In retaliation, the offended

doctor at the nephrology clinic placed "DO NOT TREAT" on the veterans file. VA management cannot figure out why the institution has a physician shortage?! Competent doctors are the most independent people in America. One can go anywhere at anytime and hang out a shingle: the doctor is in. Once people know that s/he exists customers fill her waiting room. Doctors go to medical school to be physicians not clerks and office grunts. Try as it does, VA cannot turn **real doctors** into lazy bureaucrats. In actual life that does not work, which *is why VA* cannot attract and keep MD's: they are physicians not bureaucratic grunts. How long would such political shenanigans go on in private medicine without severe consequences? Every private sector PCP I have ever visited will first attempt management of a patient complaint unless the disease is too far out of provider expertise in which to do so. In such cases, s/he issues a specialist referral; most all HMO plans require that in-process procedure; many stand alone insurance companies do too before paying a claim; all but government run, Socialist VA medical care. If private medicine ran business like that bureaucracy, the whole industry would fold into oblivion overnight. However, private sector does not have deep pockets of the people's taxes financially propping up government system failures, which now rob private resources, too. Want proof? See USPS heading on the express train towards extinction. Should Congress do to VA what it did to USPS, ditto, proper! VA is heading to historical dustbin of self-extinction evidenced by Socialist parasites are eating each other as hosts dry up, which is a common pattern in the fall of all major Socialist empires throughout recorded human history. US Supreme Court Reversal of the 1950 Feres Doctrine, enactment of the Federal Tort act and US high court go ahead for class action lawsuits against VA and its personnel finally give veterans a real chance at justice outside of VA kangaroo, Nazi judicial injustice systems. For the first time in history we have avenues for real redress against that evil empire. Liability is sending VA to the extinction dustbin where it belonged a century ago. Liability is forcing VA to offload services to private sector and discharge the hundreds of thousands of useless unionized civil service freeloaders to the unemployment center. Loss of legal immunity enjoyed for a century also sends many of them to prison for their Nazi, evil, deeds crippling and murdering veterans. Good riddance VA parasites. 90 years of US Socialism fails, proper.

The Machines finally terminate the VA, and it ain't Arnold Swarzeneggar!

VA heavily promotes 'health e Vet,' and other automated services, which are online DIY services. Using them, VA claims that Vets can schedule appointments, and tel-e-health visits directly to providers and perform sundry clerical tasks. This is a big plus for attracting tech savvy younger Vets. *However*, this march into the 21st century brave new world of virtual medicine exempts older Vets and those without affordable Internet access or skills to use it. Moreover, their systems are horribly complex, which is fine for younger people but excludes a vast segment of older patients from access without optional recourse to accommodate them. For instance, I know a senior citizen Vet age 70, and 3 time loser of the Vietnam War. He was so crazy brass sent him home permanently before doing a forth tour in that War theater. He was another My Lai massacre waiting to happen. Three tours messed him up very badly. He spent over a decade getting VA disability 100% rating and monthly benefit check. Then after that fought over the next decade for two benefit reinstatements when some denial button pushing kleptocrat re-denied them. That is why the brave coward back office benefits adjutants need to face the people and tell us 'no' to our faces; I've known this guy for decades. He can be creepy; that war messed him up badly. Choose VA for the benefits you deserve? His son, a Middle East War Veteran, along with his wife support, house and help him with self-care – not the VA! Recently, because of Covid, his physical PCP appointment was changed to a phone interview. No one told him of the change. His son discovered it by accident, and had to help conduct it. VA lack of communication with we Vets is one of the number one complaints I have with that corporation!! What would this man do without his son's help? How many more Vets suffer the same neglect by VA? Perhaps this is part of the hopelessness driving current Veteran Suicide epidemic? From my perspective, health-e-vet is another geriatric barrier for the large demographic of declining older Veterans to access VA, which adds to an already existing myriad, sundry, labyrinth we face negotiating it. This ruse also reeks of another VA plan to deny care to Vets and blame them as reason why to get paid for nothing via capitation on a nose count not on performance or product. Can you say Phoenix AZ scandal redux? Another instance blocking benefits to Veterans is the maddening, unnecessary complexity added to everything it does. Phoning in a prescription to Walmart using their automated system takes less than 3 minutes; whereas, the same phone call to VA, when one can get through perpetually clogged phone lines, to refill a

script requires myriad menu selections, lengthy messages that require over 10-20 minutes to accomplish at best. One fat finger selection resets a person back to start or disconnect. Of course lack of communication with us and providing no instructions for using their system compounds the matter. One must repeatedly fumble through until learning the quirks. VA's monopolistic attitude is take or leave it. I am leaving to private sector healthcare following increasing numbers of fellow Vets who have already done so. VA's attitude as a taxpayer supported Socialist monopoly is that we are paid for existing and are doing vets a favor just breathing². Technology threatens job security of desk clerk, gofer–nurses, back office loafers and similar useless eater, dead-wood bureaucracy. Some of my nastiest experiences in VA deal with these people most especially bloodless backoffice, cowardly, administrative officials. They provide very strong incentive for customer self-service to avoid their spiteful, uselessness. Of course, they are protesting their technological replacements while cutting to the chase of an unemployment line, where some permanently damn-well belong! Each exiting Vet places their jobs in jeopardy even more. However, in parity, I have seen this phenomenon in US businesses everywhere but above all in unionized shops and bureaucracies. The consequences of fostering toxic work environments are serious problems and bankruptcy. Toxic work environments destroy companies, customer bases, employees and people! No commerce is immune to a venomous employee environment that destroys good employees and customer patronage – not even government. When an honest, ethical employee has to fear dishonest, unethical coworkers and supervision to do a job, that spells disaster in toto. *In nearly every* case, employee passive or open aggressiveness and hostility towards customers in a toxic work environment, excepting individual natural troublemakers, is nearly always a mismanagement issue, which is not peculiar to only the VA. US business has a severe mismanagement problem in toto. Everything about that government agency from my personal experience is designed to deny and block Veteran access to receiving claimed benefits that s/he earned during Military service. Just as Captain Pybus forewarned us at discharge almost half a century ago.

Hiding VA crimes depends upon keeping every complaint, secretly, quietly internalized within that closed system. Secrecy is why Hitler and his Nazis surprised a sleeping world fully prepared to fight and win WW2. Secrecy is how Nazis got away with the holocaust. Even Amerika had its head in the uplocked position. Publicity or taking your complaints to the streets exposes them hiding in the darkness. Use it!! Two years ago, a local veteran discovered an unknown & largely secret VA clinic nested in a North Texas suburb, and part of the 1 star rated North Texas VAMC Healthcare system. Note: the rating system is 1 to 5 where 1 is lowest and 5 the highest; in other words that system is rated 20% out of 100%. Posted all over the property were signs that only veterans with 70% rating, over age 55, and other draconian restrictions would be seen at the clinic. Clinic staff turned him away because he did not meet

those 'posted' qualifications. Instead of giving up and quietly going away, he called 'news beat' investigative reporter at a local TV station. Armed with reporters and TV crew he arrived at the clinic and challenged the culprits on camera. On the 6 o'clock news, scenes of all the signs clearly posting 'the rules,' an empty parking lot but for a few employee cars parked in 'staff parking only' and very upset employees, management, security and more aired at his intrusion. Most of the footage recorded from public property played on the news. Federal privacy laws prevented doing so on and in govt facilities without releases, which VA predictably refused. All the PR spokesperson would say was, 'those rules are only suggestions...' and nothing more. Not according to the very, clearly, posted, written 'rules' or the turned away veteran who did not meet them. The empty parking lot said it all...few if any vets ever got treatment because of those supposedly, 'optional rules.' So what were VA personnel doing all day long? Most did not even come to work! Needless to say, a 'news-beat' follow-up showed all signs removed; however, VA remained mum about other changes because of that unwelcome publicity exposing what it was doing. Never underestimate the fury of a PO'ed veteran with the guts to take his or her complaint to the streets. Only one veteran made a difference to the many now getting help that otherwise would be denied by lazy VA civil service, clinic staff, robbing taxpavers stupid. That is Socialized, govt run healthcare!!! I expect his records were marked 'whistle-blower' and he faced retaliation such as 'DO NOT TREAT' and other punishments VA employees are wont to secretly met out. At least our hero could face self in the mirror every morning for standing up for his beliefs. When calling someone a dildo that desperately needs to be called a dildo, expect to take some flack for doing so!! That role model sterling example of a veteran is one of my kind – a true hero with guts to stand pat for what he believes unlike civil service dildoes working at VA. 300,000 veterans died on secret waiting lists at VAMC in Phoenix AZ. What happened there, veterans? Again - one squeaky wheel veteran got a whole clinic of deadbeat, freeloading, civil service dildo parasites off their assets and sick veterans some badly needed help. All it took was one courageous veteran with guts using his wits to open that clinic to deprived veterans. Remember over 300,000 denied vets who died on secret hospital waiting lists? What happened there, veterans? Dad had a name for those Aunt and Uncle Tom and Tim veterans calling them 'Hooray for me the hell with 'everyone else," selfish bastards aka dildoes. 300,000 dead veterans because no one spoke up is a lot of 'everyone else's.' You cannot tell me no one in that area knew of those abandoned veterans, especially veterans who simply looked the other way while thinking, "I got mine so who cares." OUCH!